

CURRENT TOPICS.

THE Mexican insurgents captured New Laredo on the 11th, after considerable fighting. Quintana and a part of his forces escaped down the river.

A LARGELY attended meeting of the citizens of Chicago, without distinction of party, was held on the 11th, for the purpose of inaugurating a radical reform in the City Government, which it is asserted is now in the hands of unprincipled and corrupt men, who have fraudulently obtained possession of the principal offices. Thomas Hoynes was nominated as a candidate for Mayor, to be supported at the election for members of the City Council, to be held on the 18th inst. As the term for the present Mayor, Harvey D. Colvin, does not expire until next year, a committee was appointed to await upon that gentleman and other officers and demand their resignations.

COL. WHITLEY, formerly Chief of Detectives of the Treasury Department, has given before a Congressional committee some very damaging testimony, if true, regarding Gen. Babcock's participation in the plot to break open the safe in the District-Attorney's office in Washington, for the purpose of abstracting certain books and papers, and then fasten the crime upon Columbus Alexander and other citizens who were fighting the District Ring. Col. Whitley says that he was sent for by Gen. Babcock to "put up the job," which he did, in connection with Harrington, District-Attorney. Gen. Babcock subsequently appeared before the committee and denied in toto all of Whitley's statements, claiming that the latter applied to him for assistance in retaining his position, from which he was likely to be removed. He admitted that he had employed Whitley to find out certain newspaper correspondents who had attacked him through the press, but further than this he had had no connection with him.

The Congressional Committee on Expenditures in the War Department has taken considerable additional testimony, among which is the following: L. H. M. Gregory, former post-trader at Fort Richardson, Texas, testified that Gen. Rice got one-third of his profits, amounting to nearly \$2,000, although Rice never invested a dollar in the business. Joseph Loeb, post-trader at Fort Concho, Texas, testified that he had paid \$2,000 to Gen. Rice for getting him that post. James Trainer, post-trader at Fort Concho, Texas, testified to a bargain with Gen. Hedrick, by which the latter was to receive a share of the profits of the business; had also paid money to various other parties for political and other purposes. Lieut. Shoemaker testified that contracts for fuel at Fort Reno were awarded to the highest bidders. The officers at the fort protested against this, but without avail.

AN attempt was made to rob an express train on the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway, at Blue Jacket Switch, in the Cherokee Nation, on the night of the 11th. The plan of the miscreants was to switch the train, and then plunder it at their leisure. The officers of the company had received information of the intended foray, however, and were prepared to receive the robbers with a well armed force. Unfortunately one of the train guards got excited and commenced firing too soon, and the whole gang took to their heels. There were seven of the rascals in the party. Two of them were reported captured at Chetopa on the following morning, and the arrest of nearly the whole gang was anticipated.

THE House Committee on Territories has voted to amend the bill making New Mexico a State, so as to provide that the election for the adoption of the State Constitution shall be held in June, 1877. This will prevent the new State from taking part in the next Presidential election.

GEN. JOHN McDONALD, formerly Supervisor of Internal Revenue at St. Louis, and Col. Wm. O. Avery, formerly Chief Clerk in the Treasury Department at Washington, both of whom were convicted of complicity in the St. Louis Whisky Ring frauds, received their sentence on the 13th. Gen. McDonald was sentenced to three years' confinement in the Penitentiary at Jefferson City and to pay a fine of \$5,000; Col. Avery to two years in the Penitentiary and \$1,000 fine.

THE statue of Abraham Lincoln, in Lincoln Square, Washington City, was

unveiled with appropriate ceremonies on the 14th. The exercises took place in the presence of a large crowd, among which the colored people were fully represented by societies and orders. The monument was unveiled by President Grant, and seated around him upon the platform were the members of the Cabinet, Supreme Court Judges, members of Congress, foreign ministers, etc. The oration was delivered by the colored orator, Frederick Douglass. The statue is of bronze, 12 feet high, and resting on a pedestal 10 feet high. It represents Mr. Lincoln standing erect, with the proclamation of emancipation in his left hand, while his right hand is outstretched over the kneeling figure of a slave, from whose limbs the shackles have just been freed. Upon the base of the monument is the word "Emancipation." The statue cost \$17,000, all of which was paid by the colored people. Congress appropriated \$3,000 for the pedestal.

THE will of the late Alexander T. Stewart was admitted to probate on the 14th. With the exception of a bequest of \$1,000,000 to Judge Hilton, the business manager and life-long friend of the deceased, there are no bequests, either public or private, of any large amounts, his whole fortune being left to his wife, with directions to continue, under the advice of Judge Hilton, the plans of public and private charity which he had begun. He requests that to each of his employees who have served him 20 years, \$1,000 shall be paid, and to those who have served him 10 years, \$500. His household servants were liberally provided for in his will, and to Sarah and Rebecca Morrow, whose family had befriended him in his youth, he leaves an annuity of \$12,000, and also a house and furniture.

IN the United States District Court at Jefferson City, Mo., on the 15th, the following sentences were passed upon convicted members of the Whisky Ring: Ex-Gauger John L. Bittinger, of St. Joseph, two years in the Penitentiary and \$2,000 fine; Simon Adler, distiller, one year in the County Jail and \$1,000 fine; Abraham Furst, his partner, same; John Sheehan, of St. Joseph, eight months in the County Jail and \$1,000 fine; H. R. W. Hartwig, three months in the County Jail and \$2,500 fine; Ernst F. Hartwig, same; Jas. E. Marsh, ex-Gauger at Kansas City, six months in County Jail and \$1,000 fine.

THE Grand Jury of the District of Columbia has returned indictments against Gen. Babcock, Harrington, Whitley, Nettleship, Benton, Miles and Somerville, for complicity in the safe-burglary conspiracy. Babcock gave bail in \$10,000, ex-Gov. Shepherd becoming his security. It was reported that Harrington had fled. It is understood that all except Babcock and Harrington will be used as witnesses, and indictments against those testifying will be *not* pressed. Miles, alias White, the professional safe-breaker, who is now serving out a 14 years' imprisonment in the Vermont State prison for bank robbery, has written a letter to Mr. Knott, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, in which he states that he was employed by Col. Whitley and did the job under direction of Babcock, Harrington and others, who assured him of protection.

A CALL has been issued for a convention, to be held in New York City on the 15th of May, "to consider what may be done to secure the election of men to the highest offices of the Republic, whose character and ability will satisfy the exigencies of the present situation, protect the honor of the American name, prevent the national election of the Centennial year from becoming a mere choice of evils, and satisfy the popular desire for genuine reform." The call is signed by William Cullen Bryant, Theodore D. Woolsey, Alex. H. Bullock, Horace White, and Carl Schurz.

THE recent publication in an Indianapolis paper of a statement that some \$64,000 of Union Pacific funds had been traced to the possession of ex-Speaker Blaine, has caused quite a sensation in political circles. Mr. Blaine promptly denied the story in whole and in part, and produced letters from Treasurer Rollins of the railroad, declaring that no money had been paid by the company in which Mr. Blaine was interested.

THE President, on the 17th, signed the bill for the substitution of silver coin for fractional currency, and it was understood that orders would be issued by the Treasury Department to immediately cause the law to be put into effect.

THE towboat Dictator, of St. Louis, while passing up through the bridge at

Hannibal, Mo., about 2 o'clock on the morning of the 17th, became unmanageable, on account of the swift current and high wind, and struck against the upper portion of one of the bridge piers. She then swung around and careened against the bridge, taking out an entire span, upon which, unfortunately, the whole crew of the boat had clambered for safety. The boat and bridge span went down together, precipitating some 20 persons into the water, about one-half of whom were rescued. Among those drowned were the clerk, Henry C. Young, and second engineer, Wm. Foster.

PERSONAL AND POLITICAL.

THE South Carolina Republican State Convention elected a solid Morton delegation to the Cincinnati Convention.

PRESIDENT-ELECT OPRADO, of Peru, arrived in New York on the 11th.

STEINBERGER, the American Prime Minister at Samoa, has had a quarrel with King Malistoa, and it is reported is now held as a prisoner on board the British ship Baracouta, by order of United States Consul Foster.

C. F. MOELLER, an ex-Gauger, has been sentenced to one year's imprisonment in the State Prison and to pay a fine of \$2,500; and Reynolds, a rectifier, has been sentenced to six months' in the County Jail and to a fine of \$2,500; both of Milwaukee.

THE Ohio Legislature adjourned on the 12th, having been in session 101 days.

L. K. LIPPINCOTT, late chief clerk of the General Land-office, who was summarily dismissed by Secretary Chandler some weeks ago for being engaged in defrauding the Government by means of fraudulent Chippewa land scrip, has turned up missing, and all efforts to ascertain his whereabouts have proved fruitless. Lippincott was indicted by the Grand Jury, and is supposed to have taken refuge in some foreign country. It is now known that he passed 1,000 fraudulent claims, for which he received about \$24,000. Lippincott is the husband of "Grace Greenwood," a popular writer for the press and a most estimable lady.

THE Virginia Republican Convention has chosen an unpledged delegation to the Cincinnati Convention. It is claimed that a majority of the delegates are for Blaine and the remainder divided between Bristow, Morton and Conkling.

THE Emperor and Empress of Brazil arrived in New York on the 15th. Several Cabinet officers, together with Gen. Sherman and other high officials, went down the bay and welcomed the royal guests, but at the request of Dom Pedro, no public reception was tendered him upon his arrival in the city.

GEN. HEDRICK was examined by the Clymer Committee on the 12th. His evidence was to the effect that he is interested in the post-traderships at Fort Buford, Fort Lincoln and Fort Fetterman. He has one-third interest in each, but never put any capital in either. He helped to secure these post-traderships, and was a personal friend of Secretary Belknap. He had received nothing from Fort Lincoln—from the others, perhaps, \$10,000.

COL. JOHN L. ROUETT, formerly Second Assistant Postmaster-General, and now Governor of Colorado, appeared before the House Committee on Post-offices and Post-roads and on oath absolutely denied that he had ever received any money or any valuable consideration whatever from T. P. Sawyer or any other contractor, directly or indirectly.

THE Chicago Common Council has declared the recent town election null and void, on account of frauds perpetrated, and appointed a full set of town officers to the positions declared vacant. Mayor Colvin has published a lengthy reply to the request of the Citizens' Committee for his resignation, in which he defends his character and his administration, and declines to tender his resignation.

EX-GOVERNOR TRUSTEN POLK of Missouri died in St. Louis on the morning of the 16th, very suddenly, presumably from an affection of the heart. He was 64 years of age.

THE Mississippi Legislature adjourned sine die on the 15th.

DR. ORESTES A. BROWNSON, formerly editor of *Brownson's Review*, and a well known author and controversialist, died at the residence of his son in Detroit, on the 17th, aged 73.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

John Seal, Teller of the New York Security Savings Bank, has absconded after stealing \$29,000 of the bank's money.

THE House Committee on Territories has decided to call the proposed new State of New Mexico Montezuma, as soon as it becomes a State.

The new census of Philadelphia, just taken, shows a population of 817,448.

Lightning struck a 12,000 barrel oil-tank, at Bear Creek Station, Pa., on the morning of the 12th, setting it on fire and scattering the burning oil all over two other adjoining tanks. About 45,000 barrels of oil were consumed, the value of oil and tanks being nearly \$100,000.

By the upsetting of the schooner Henrietta Greenleaf, of Gloucester, Mass., three of the crew were drowned. The remainder took to the boats, one of which was picked up, but another, containing five men, had not been heard from.

The New York Stock Exchange is to be closed from the 1st to the 5th of July, in honor of the Centennial.

It is reported at Fort Lincoln that seven whites and two squaws were recently massacred in cold blood by the Yankton Indians near Little Rocky River.

There was a severe snow-storm throughout England and Ireland on the 12th, causing much damage to vegetation.

According to the report of the Secretary of the National Pork-Packers' Association, the total number of hogs packed in the West during the season of 1875-6 was 4,874,125, against 5,506,226 last season; average net weight 218.36 lbs., against 209.77 lbs. last season. Production of lard, 541,115 tierces, against 594,398 tierces last season.

A hurricane at Louisville, on the night of the 13th, blew down several buildings. A number of persons were buried beneath the ruins, and two were killed.

At Danville, Ky., on the night of the 13th, four masked men entered the Jail and took therefrom Jim Tarpin, who was imprisoned for committing an outrage on a little girl at Perryville. The next morning Tarpin's body was found suspended from a tree.

FORTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

In the Senate, on the 11th, there was further discussion upon the new Postal bill, but it again went over. In the House, a bill was passed authorizing the construction of a bridge across the Missouri River at or near Sioux City, Iowa.

In the Senate, on the 12th, the Postal bill was read a third time and passed. It provides for the transmission through the mails of third-class matter, in packages not exceeding four pounds in weight, at one cent per ounce, postage to be prepaid by stamps. Transient newspapers and magazines will be transmitted at the rate of one cent for every three ounces or fractional part thereof, and one cent for each additional ounce or fractional part thereof. The bill to take effect on July 1, 1876. In the House, the Committee on Elections reported in the Minnesota contested election case, in favor of Stuart, sitting member. The Deffenbacher bill was passed.

In the Senate, on the 13th, a bill was passed authorizing the construction of a pontoon bridge across the Mississippi River, from some point in LaSalle County, Wis., to some point in Houston County, Minn. The most of the session was devoted to the discussion of a bill authorizing the great payment in Washington, Adjourned till Monday. In the House, the bill for restoration to market of the Minut Indian reservation, Utah, was passed; also, the bill respecting limits of reservation for town sites on public domain. Mr. Sawyer, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported the Senate bill to confirm pre-emption and homestead entries of public lands within the limits of railroad grants in cases where such entries have been made under the regulations of the Land Department. Passed. The bill for the transfer of the Indian Bureau to the War Department was taken up in Committee of the Whole, and Mr. Seelye spoke against the bill and Mr. Hooker in favor of it.

Neither House of Congress was in session on the 14th, the day being observed as a general holiday in Washington, on account of the unveiling of the Lincoln statue.

In the House, on the 15th, there was a long discussion as to the power and duty of the House in the matter of the impeachment of Hallet Kilbourne, the continuance of witnesses, but the matter went over without arriving at any definite conclusion.

In the Senate, on the 17th, after some routine business had been disposed of, at 12:20 p. m. the impeachment proceedings in the case of Wm. W. Belknap were taken up. After a formal proclamation by the Sergeant-at-Arms, the oath was administered by the Chief Justice to each Senator as he was absent when the body of Senators were sworn in a few days previously. The Secretary was ordered to notify the House that the Senate was ready to proceed with the trial, and that seats had been provided for the members. At 12:25 ex-Secretary Belknap, with his counsel, Messrs. Carpenter, Black and Blair, entered and proceeded to the table provided for them. At 1 o'clock the managers of the impeachment and members of the House appeared and took the seats assigned them. After the reading of the minutes, etc., Mr. Carpenter read and had filed a plea denying the jurisdiction of the Senate to try Belknap on the articles of impeachment, as he was not an officer of the United States at the time such articles were found and presented to the Senate, that he has not since been, nor is he now an officer of the United States, but was and is a private citizen of the United States and of the State of Iowa. Mr. Lord, on the part of the managers, asked that time be allowed them until the 19th inst. to consider what replication shall be made to the plea of Belknap, and it was so ordered. The managers and counsel for the accused having, in reply to a question of the President pro tempore, said that they had nothing further to propose, the Senate sitting as a Court of Impeachment adjourned until the 19th, and resumed consideration of legislative business. In the House, the case of Hallet Kilbourne was again under consideration, and was the occasion of an acrimonious debate between Messrs. Blaine and Tucker (Va.). A resolution was finally adopted, directing the Sergeant-at-Arms to make a return to the writ of habeas corpus issued by the court, and to produce Kilbourne before the court.

Teach Your Children to Swim.

Capt. Webb, the great swimmer, writes, in *Cassell's Family Magazine*: "It is the duty of every parent to insist on his son's learning to swim. To teach a very young child to swim, the best place is a large puddle in the sand at low tide. The child, like a puppy, will begin by paddling. If you throw a cork into the water, you will see the puppy run in up to its depth and give a short bark; and the chances are, especially if there is a grown up dog that can swim to set him an example, than in a day or two he will take his plunge of his own accord, and very proud he will be of his first success; only here again, don't overdo it. As soon as the puppy has been in, walk away, and call him, and he will be more anxious to go into the water another time. Now, treat your child like your puppy. Entice him to go in, and if you can get some older child who can swim to go in with him all the better, but let the child do just as he likes. Get two children to play at splashing one another; they will enjoy the fun, and gradually getting excited, will venture in deeper and deeper."

A GIRL employed in a paper mill at Westfield, Mass., suffered a severe attack of lockjaw last week, in which the jaws were set for nearly two hours. The doctor said the trouble was the result of an inveterate habit of chewing gum.

HERE AND THERE.

A BARBER-SHOP has been opened at Atlanta, Ga., all the operatives in which are young girls.

Among the treasures recently brought to light in Pompeii is a silver altar, on which were placed two silver cups and spoons, the latter precisely like those now used.

In Algeria there is a river of genuine ink. It is formed by the union of two streams, one coming from a region of ferruginous soil, the other draining a peat swamp. The water of the former is strongly impregnated with iron, that of the latter with gallic acid. When the two waters mingle the acid of the one unites with the iron of the other, forming true ink.

T. L. COLEMAN, Mrs. John Seal, Mrs. Frank Arnold, and others have just discovered a land grant to Benjamin Waller, a relative, for 72,000 acres of land in Charleston, Abbeville, and Greenville Counties, S. C., dated in 1781, and renewed in Charleston in 1851. As lawyers are at work upon the claim, there is already much consternation among the property holders in that region.

A FRENCH paper tells a heart-rending tale of the horrible fate of a family who could not escape from the top story of a high house in which a fire was fiercely raging below. Mattresses having been placed on the roof of an adjacent shed, the eldest daughter, aged 20, leaped first, and, notwithstanding she fell on a mattress, broke her skull, jaw, and hips, surviving a quarter of an hour. The father followed and was instantly killed, next came the son, with the same result, the youngest daughter jumped last and shared the fate of the others.

CONSIDERABLE amusement was caused in the Biddleford County Court in England the other day by a case in which a school-mistress sued one of her patrons for 15s. 4d. for the tuition of his children. On being asked by the Judge for her account, the plaintiff produced three almanacs, upon which were marks signifying the attendance of the three children, and a piece of paper with some pothook signs showing the money paid. She told the Court she could not write, and, therefore, was obliged to keep her accounts in this manner. The Judge gave judgment for the amount claimed, but expressed surprise that a parent should send his children to a school the mistress of which could not write.

MR. T. W. HIGGINSON, in seeking to show in the *Woman's Journal* that women are more honest than men, relates this incident: "It happened to me, some years ago, to be the agent through whom was negotiated a loan to a young girl going through a normal school. She is now a teacher, and, as regularly as quarter-day comes round, I receive from her \$3 or \$10 to be distributed among her creditors. It is worth the trouble of the small negotiation to see the amazement of the recipients. They generally say that such a thing never happened before to them in their lives, and that they never thought of being repaid. To this I have but one stereotyped answer, 'Because you never before lent money to a woman.'"

THE MARKETS.

ST. LOUIS, April 18, 1876.  
BEEF—Choice, \$5.00; Good to Prime, \$4.45; Cows and Heifers, \$2.25; Fat Texas, \$1.50; Hides, \$1.00; Wool, \$1.00; Lard, \$1.00; Flour—Common to Choice, \$3.00; Extra, \$3.50; XXX, \$4.00; Rye, \$1.00; No. 2, \$1.45; No. 3, \$1.35; Corn—No. 2 Mixed, \$1.45; No. 3, \$1.35; Oats—No. 2, \$1.00; No. 3, \$0.95; Hay—Choice Timothy, \$1.25; Medium Timothy, \$1.00; Butter—Choice Packaged, \$0.50; Eggs—Hens, \$0.15; Turkeys, \$1.00; Pork—Standard Mess, \$2.75; Lard—Steam, \$1.35; Wool—Tub-washed, Choice, \$0.40; Unwashed, \$0.30; Cotton—Middling, 12 1/2c.

NEW YORK.  
BEEF—Native, \$8.00; Texan, None. HOGS—Live, \$5.00. SHEEP—Common to Choice, \$3.25; Choice Spring, Extra, \$5.00; Wheat—No. 2 Chicago, \$1.25; Corn—Western Mixed, \$0.70; Oats—Western Mixed, \$0.60; Pork—Mess, \$22.50; Lard—Per cwt., \$13.35; Cotton—Middling, 13 1/2c.

CHICAGO.  
BEEF—Common to Choice, \$3.00; HOGS—Common to Choice, \$3.50; SHEEP—\$3.00; Flour—Choice Winter, Extra, \$7.25; Choice Spring, Extra, \$8.00; Wheat—Spring No. 2, \$1.14; Spring No. 3, \$1.00; Corn—No. 2, 4 1/2c; Oats—No. 2, 3 1/2c; Rye—No. 2, 6 1/2c; Pork—Mess, \$22.25; Lard—Per cwt., \$13.35.

KANSAS CITY.  
BEEF—Native Steers, \$3.75; Native Cows, \$3.00; HOGS—\$5.75.

MEMPHIS.  
Flour—Choice, \$7.25; Corn—No. 2 White, \$0.60; Oats—\$0.50; Cotton—Middling, 12 1/2c.

NEW ORLEANS.  
Flour—Choice to Family, \$6.25; Corn—\$0.60; Oats—\$0.50; Hay—Prime, \$10.00; Pork—New Mess, \$23.25; Bacon—9 1/2c; Sugar—Fair to Prime, 7 1/2c; Cotton—Low Middling, 11 1/2c.